

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 03474 270841Z

12-S
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 INR-07 PM-03 SS-15 DODE-00 NSC-05

/043 W
----- 071399

R 261346Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4688
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

CONFIDENTIAL AMMAN 3474

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, JO, IS, PLO
SUBJECT: FIRING ON ISRAEL-JORDAN BORDER

REF: TEL AVIV 3037
USDAO TEL AVIV 0886

1. IN COURSE OF LONG HOLIDAY WEEKEND WE HAVE TALKED
INFORMALLY WITH SENIOR JORDANIANS ABOUT CROSS
BORDER FIRING (REFTELS). THIS INCLUDES PRIME MINISTER AND
CHIEF OF STAFF LT. GEN. ZAID BIN SHAKER.

2. SHAKER AT FIRST (MORNING, MAY 23) WAS UNINFORMED
OF FIRING. SUBSEQUENTLY, HE SAID NO FIRING HAD COME
FROM JORDANIAN SIDE. PRESUME THIS REFERS ONLY TO
JAF ALTHOUGH HE ADDED HE HAD NO REPORT ALSO OF
FEDAYEEN ACTIVITY. HE INDICATED THAT THERE WERE
BRUSH FIRES BURNING IN THE AREA OF THE ROTHENBURG
PROJECT, A LONG DISUSED POWER DAM AT THE CONFLUENCE
OF THE YARMUK AND JORDAN RIVERS, INCLUDING ON AN
ISALAND IN THE AREA WHICH JORDAN CLAIMS, BUT DOES
NOT OCCUPY.

3. COMMENT: JORDANIANS AT LEAST SUSPECT THAT THIS
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PAGE 02 AMMAN 03474 270841Z

INCIDENT, WITH ITS ATTENDANT PUBLICITY IS PART OF THE

RECENT WAR OF WORDS ON THIS FRONT. THEY HAVE
HOWEVER CHOSEN TO COOL IT AND TO OUR KNOWLEDGE HAVE
NOT PUBLICIZED THE INCIDENT IN THE LOCAL PRESS. NOT
IMPOSSIBLE OF COURSE THAT FEDAYEEN COULD HAVE CREATED
INCIDENT BY FIRING ACROSS BORDER ALTHOUGH JORDANIANS
SEEM TO HAVE STEPPED UP ANTI-INFILTRATION ACTIVITY AND
APPEAR TO BE DETERMINED TO KEEP BORDER COOL.

PICKERING

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
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